



# Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

## Event Descriptions

\*Events marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

Unless otherwise stated, programs begin at the visitor center.

HUNTING occurs on the refuge throughout October, November, and December. A permit is required. Trails may be closed and gunshots are likely to be heard. DO NOT BE ALARMED.

### **\*BLUE GOOSE BUS TOUR\***

Join a ranger and enjoy behind the scenes access to closed areas of the refuge complex. Destinations vary depending on wildlife use and activity.

### **\*OTTAWA TRAM TOUR\***

Enjoy the breeze while searching for wildlife and admiring beautiful landscapes. This open air tram tour is great for the entire family!

### **\*NATURE TOTS\***

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult for nature crafts, stories, and outdoor fun!

### **\*SWAMPERS\***

Children ages 6-12 are invited to hike with refuge staff for a swampin' good time!

### **CARS FOR CRITTERS CAR SHOW**

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association sponsors this car show with live critters, great food, tram tours of the refuge, and DJ Cruisin Zeake spinning classic car show tunes!

### **HIKE THE DIKES**

"Hike the Dikes" is a cooperative program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Attend three and earn a hiking stick!

### **NURTURE NATURE DAYS**

Learn about the refuge while lending a hand to improve it. Projects include trail maintenance, citizen science, and habitat restoration.

### **NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

Learn about volunteer opportunities with the refuge and our friends group Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association.

### **\*YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING WORKSHOP\***

This event is geared for the new waterfowl hunter.

Learn about waterfowl ID, decoy setups, blinds, boats, and cooking. Registration forms are available at the visitor center and online.

### **CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT**

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:  
October 3, 4, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31  
November 14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25  
ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSED

### **OTTAWA WILDLIFE DRIVE**

Enjoy the refuge from the comfort of your car! The 7 mile ONE WAY gravel route begins from the overflow parking area. Open sunrise to sunset. (Entrance gate closes one hour prior to sunset)

### **16th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST DISPLAY**

Enjoy the splendor of your federal lands through this annual photo contest display. Categories include Birds, Wildlife, Landscapes, and People. Contest entry forms available at the visitor center and online.

### **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying a warm fire, festive music, kids crafts, and good company. Enter to win a gift basket too!

### **BIG SIT**

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with manager Jason Lewis at his annual BIG SIT. Sunrise—4pm at the mouth of Crane Creek along the Estuary Trail. Park at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

### **MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS**

Join a refuge volunteer and become a citizen scientist the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.  
*Meet at the trailhead parking area.*

### **\*OWL PROWL\***

Experience the refuge at night! Explore the world of owls and learn about their amazing adaptations on this guided hike through the forest.

### **CONTROLLED DEER ARCHERY HUNT**

September 28—October 2, October 5—9,  
December 7—11, December 14—18  
SOME REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

### **CONTROLLED DEER GUN HUNT**

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:  
November 21, 22 & Nov 30—Dec 4  
ALL REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

### **CONTROLLED DEER HUNT PREVIEW DAY**

Prepare for a successful hunt by scoping out your hunting unit ahead of time.



# Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

## Calendar of Events

September—December, 2015

**Saturday, September 5**

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots\*

1-2:30pm— Swampers\*

**Sunday, September 6**

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

**Saturday, September 12**

9am— Hike the Dikes

**Sunday, September 13**

1:30-2:30pm— New Volunteer Orientation

**Friday, September 18**

7:30pm— Owl Prowl\*

**Saturday, September 19**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

10am— Nurture Nature

**Sunday, September 20**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

**Friday, September 25**

7:30pm— Owl Prowl\*

**Sunday, September 27**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

9am-2pm— Ottawa Tram Tours

9am-3pm— Cars for Critters Car Show

**Saturday, October 3**

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots\*

1-2:30pm— Swampers\*

**Sunday, October 4**

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm— Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop\*

**Saturday, October 10**

10am— Nurture Nature

**Sunday, October 11**

Big Sit

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour\*

1:30-2:30pm— New Volunteer Orientation

1-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour\*

**Friday, October 16**

7:00pm— Owl Prowl\*

**Saturday, October 17**

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour\*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour\*

**September 27 — October 17**

16th Annual Photo Contest Display

**Sunday, October 18**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

**Thursday, October 22**

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour\*

**Saturday, October 24**

10am— Nurture Nature

**Sunday, October 25**

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour\*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour\*

**Sunday, November 1**

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

**Saturday, November 7**

9am-2pm— Controlled Deer Hunt Preview Day

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots\*

1-2:30pm— Swampers\*

**Sunday, November 8**

1:30-2:30pm— New Volunteer Orientation

**Friday, November 13**

6:30pm— Owl Prowl\*

**Sunday, November 15**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

**Sunday, December 6**

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm-4pm— Holiday Open House

**Saturday, December 19**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

**Sunday, December 20**

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

\*Require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

**Visitor Center Closed:**

Monday, October 12

Wednesday, November 11

Thursday, November 26

Friday, December 25

Saturday, December 26

Friday, January 1

**Visitor Center Closed at Noon:**

Wednesday, November 25

Thursday, December 24

Thursday, December 31



**Members Only Events:**

**Saturday, November 14**

1-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour\*

Membership information is available at the visitor center information desk.